

2. REMARKS

2.1 NATIONALIZATION

This application represents the U.S. national stage of International Patent Application PCT/US03/12324, filed April 21, 2003, which claims priority from provisional application Serial No. 60/374,083, filed April 19, 2002.

A copy of the International Application as filed is not required to satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(2) as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office. Nonetheless, for the Examiner's convenience, a copy of international application PCT/US03/12324 is enclosed.

2.2 STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

After according a U.S. filing date, and before calculating the filing fee, entry of the foregoing claim amendments is respectfully requested. These revisions are made to conform the claims to U.S. practice, and to even more clearly define the claimed invention. This voluntary amendment is submitted in an effort to reduce excess claims fees, and to expedite examination and allowance of claims directed to particular embodiments of the invention.

Claims 1-42 were present in the original PCT application as filed.

Claims 2, 4-9, 15, 18, 21-23, and 25-31 have been canceled herein without prejudice and without disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to re-file these claims, or claims directed to the subject matter of these claims at a later stage in prosecution.

Claims 3, 10, 16, and 20 have been amended herein.

No claims have been added.

Claims 1, 3, 10-14, 16-17, 19-20, 24, and 32-42 are now pending in the case and ready for initial examination on the merits.

The present claims are fully supported by the specification and claims of the original international application and do not, in any way, contain new matter.

2.3 AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND REFERENCES ARE PROVIDED

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement listing references A1, B1 and C1-C9. Also provided are copies of the references B1 and C1-C9. Applicants request that they be made of record in the case before initial examination on the merits.

2.4 FORMAL DRAWINGS ARE PROVIDED

Applicants also submit herewith formal drawings 1-19C on 15 sheets, and ask that they be accepted by the draftsman.

2.5 A SEQUENCE LISTING IN BOTH PAPER AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS ARE PROVIDED

Applicants also submit herewith the required sequence listing in both paper and electronic formats and ask that they be entered into the record prior to examination on the merits.

2.6 FORMALITIES AND SUMMARY

The national filing fee and claim fees are included herewith. Any omitted fees should be deducted from Williams, Morgan & Amerson Deposit Account No. 50-0786/4300.014500.

Should the Office have any questions or comments, a telephone call to the Applicants' undersigned representative would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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